of its GDP to provide universal coverage for pension, basic healthcare, child benefit and unemployment assistance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) The Social Security Department of International Labour Organization (ILO) has brought out a paper titled 'Can low income countries afford basic social security.'

(b) The paper projects upto 3.9 per cent domestically financed expenditure of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for India to provide basic social protection of its citizens.

Government of India is committed to provide social security cover to its workers both in the organized and unorganized sectors. So far as the organized sector is concerned a number of legislations have been enacted to provide social security benefits like medical facilities, employment injury/maternity benefits, insurance, pension and gratuity etc. to workers. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana, a worker insured under the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 is entitled to claim unemployment allowance on account of closure of factory/establishment, retrenchment or permanent invalidity. The period of unemployment allowance has been increased from 6 months to one year to combat the adverse impart of the financial crisis. In respect of the unorganized sector workers Government is providing health care, housing and education to the children of Beedi, Cine and Non-coal mine workers through the Labour Welfare Funds. Smart card based cashless health cover of Rs. 30,000/- per annum is being provided to BPL families under the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana. To provide death and disability cover to rural landless households between the age group of 18 to 59 years, the Government launched the "Aam Admi Bima Yojana." Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme provides for old age pension to all citizens above the age of 65 years and living below the poverty line. Government of India had enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. The Act provides for constitution of Social Security Boards at the Central and State levels which small recommend formulation of social security schemes relating to medical care, maternity/old age benefits, insurance, housing, educational schemes for children etc. for unorganised sector workers.

Combating the forced labour

2824. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently released report of the International Labour Organization has warned of the increasing number of unethical and criminal practices forcing people into forced labour which include bounded and trafficked persons:

(b) whether many countries in the world have legislation that treats forced labour as a criminal offence; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to combat the evil practice of the forced labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) The Report of International Labour Organisation released in May, 2009 under the heading 'The cost of Coercion' mentions about the existence of forced labourers in India and other countries. The report also mentions that in many countries the recent impetus has been the new laws against human trafficking. Almost all countries now prohibit forced labour in either their constitutional, criminal, labour or other administrative laws.

In India the Bonded Labour System has been abolished by law throughout country with effect from 25th October, 1975 under Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Ordinance which was replaced by Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The responsibility for implementing the Act lies with the State Governments. In order to assist the State Governments in the task of rehabilitation of identified and released bonded labourers, a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme was introduced in May, 1978. Under the Scheme, rehabilitation assistance is provided @ Rs.20,000/- per bonded labourer which is equally shared by Central and State Government.

Unemployment on account of recession

2825. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of unemployment figures State-wise and category-wise;

(b) the steps Government proposes to take to reduce unemployment in the next five years;

(c) whether there is any policy change made in this matter;

(d) whether the figure have substantially increased after the world recession; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the increase on account of the recession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organization. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per the results of this survey, a statement indicating State-wise unemployment rates for the period 2004-05 is enclosed (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Eleventh Five Year Plan aims at creating 58 million job opportunities. As a result, it is expected that there would be reduction in unemployment rate to 4.83% towards the end of the Plan period. Government have taken several steps to reduce unemployment rate. The focus is on productive employment at a faster pace than before, and target agriculture growth at 4% per annum in order to raise the incomes of masses of the rural population to bring about a general improvement in their living conditions. Government of India has also been implementing various employment generation programmes, such as, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP); Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS).